



# ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

## Newsletter March 2012

Secretary: Alan Murray, 2 Batchart Steadings, Aberdeen, AB12 5YQ. Tel: 01224 865515 email: alnj.murray@gmail.com

### Programme:

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**Swimming the Corryvreckan – Rohan Betts**  
**Station Hotel Ellon 20:00**

**Sat /Sunday 17/18<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**Tulloch Station Bunkhouse Weekend**

**Focal Pt Mike Taylor (01651 862234)**

**Alternative Sunday Walk – Convals (Duffton)**

**Focal Pt Irene Jamieson**

**Community Centre Car Park 08:30**

### Meikle and Little Conval (OS Sheet 28)

#### Mike Taylor

These are two small hills near Dufftown. Meikle Conval at 571m is 19m higher than its sibling, Little Conval.

There are a number of possible starting points for the walk but the most obvious is at GR 309387 on the B9009 south west of Duffton. A track goes up from here beside the electricity line to the col between the two Convals. There are the remains of a large Iron Age fort on the summit of Little Conval and extensive views towards the Cairngorms, the Moray coast and the Glenlivet hills. The walk from here to Meikle Conval is dominated by Ben Rinnes and its prominent granite tor. The simplest way back would be to return to the col then down to the starting point. This gives a walk of 8km with about 500m of ascent – 3 to 4 hours walking

There are possibilities for round trip walks but they would all involve some road walking.

This is a very straightforward walk suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club. If you are interested in taking part, please let Irene Jamieson (01358 711242) know by Thursday 15 March



*Summit of Brown Cow Hill; Pictures Alan Murray*

### Brown Cow Hill - Feb Walk Report

#### Mike Taylor

Eighteen folk turned out for this outing on a fairly snowy morning – more people than we have seen for some time. We filled the minibus and a car. The thin layer of snow on the roads and fields around Ellon surprisingly disappeared as we headed inland towards Alford but as we drove up Donside, we could see that there was a reasonable covering of snow on the hills.

It was chilly but bright when we set off from the car park near Corgarff Castle. The track into the hills had some snow and ice patches on it but not enough to hinder our progress. After a while we left the main track to cut across the hillside towards the large lump which is Brown Cow Hill. The going was a little less easy through snowy heather and a frozen peat bog but considerably easier than it would be in wet conditions. On reaching the summit plateau beautiful mountain views opened up in all directions. The clarity of the air on clear winter days makes for wonderfully sharp views of the mountain scenery. As we walked westwards over the plateau, into a chilly wind, the magnificent Ben Avon massif, with the Tors standing out against the snow, dominated the scene. Again we were grateful that the ground was frozen as we walked through peat hags and over large frozen puddles. After dropping a little then climbing Meikle Geal Charn, named after a white quartz stonefield on its summit, we set off down a heathery slope to join the track which would take us into the Don valley at Inchmore and a good road to complete our horseshoe circuit back to Corgarff. This area is in the Royal Estate and is often frequented by them. Hence the mixed blessing of a tarmac road for the last few kilometres.

The 18km walk was completed comfortably in just under six hours. We then drove to the Grant Arms in Monymusk for a very welcome drink and excellent bar supper before returning to Ellon. A fine day out!

### Forthcoming Events

Apr 15<sup>th</sup> Ladder Hills

May 19/20<sup>th</sup> Skye Weekend

May 20<sup>th</sup> Glen Buchat

Jun 17<sup>th</sup> May and Dreish via Corrie Fee

### Tiso Discount Evening

Tiso Aberdeen are holding a Discount Evening on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March from 18:00 – 20:30, offering 20% discount on Mountaineering and Climbing Hardware, 15% on Clothing, Outerwear, Footwear and Accessories, and 10% on GPS Software, Canoes and Publications. They are also offering 30% off all food and drinks in their in-store café. They are also offering 25% off selected items in their “Blues” ski shop. Tiso are now in their new store at 1 John Street AB25 1BT

### Rohan Discount Arrangement

Following a chance meeting with the assistant manager in the Aberdeen Rohan store, who comes from Ellon, Alan Donaldson managed to secure a discount arrangement with our local Rohan store in Back Wynd. On production of your Club membership card you should secure a 10% discount. Thanks to Alan for this.

The Club now has discount arrangements with Blacks, Craigdon, Nevisport, Hilltrek in Aboyne, Tiso (discount evenings), Cotswold Outdoor and Rohan. On its own this is well worth the £15 annual subscription – so if any of you haven't yet renewed your membership, now is the time to do so! If you haven't already done so please send a cheque for the relevant amount to the treasurer, Allan Brown, 8a Riverview Place, Ellon, AB41 9NW. Many thanks.

### Swimming the Corryvreckan – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March

We have been very lucky that Rohan Betts has agreed to come to speak to the Club on her recent trip to the west coast to swim the notorious Gulf of Corryvreckan between the islands of Jura and Scarba. Please come along and support the Club for this evening which is sure to be fascinating.



## 2012 Walks and Talks Programme

Month	Date	Event	Time	Focal Point
Jan	9 15	AGM & Jordan Slide Show (AB) Ben Rinnes	20:00 08:30	Malcolm Leach
Feb	13 19	Mountain Video Brown Cow Hill & Bar Meal	20:00 08:00	Mike Taylor
Mar	12 18	Swimming the Corryvreckan – Rohan Betts Tulloch Station bunkhouse weekend; Alternative Sunday walk: Convals (Duffton)	20:00 08:30	Mike Taylor Irene Jamieson
Apr	9 15	Antarctica – Jack Orr Ladder hills	20:00 07:30	Malcolm Leach
May	14 19/20 20	Outdoor Gear Update Skye Wend – Broadford Backpackers bunkhouse Glen Buchat	20:00 07:30	Gordon Spence Irene Jamieson
Jun	11 17	Leask Heritage Tour Mayar and Dreish via Corrie Fee	19:00 07:00	Allan Brown
Jul	9 15	Gight Woods Cairn an Tagairt Mor – the Stuic	19:00 07:00	Alan Murray
Aug	13 19	Collieston Coastal Walk Lairig Ghru	19:00 07:00	Gordon Spence
Sep	10 15/16	St Kilda ?? Camp at Coylumbridge and walk to Shelterstone – Sunday walkers to join on the day	20:00 07:00	Malcolm Leach
Oct	8 14 27/28	Lands End to John o'Groats Cycle Ride? Geal Charn (Nethybridge) Sail Mhor Bunkhouse Weekend	20:00 07:30	Alan Murray Mike Taylor
Nov	12 18	Cowal Way Walk?? Monamenach & Bar Supper	20:00 07:30	Irene Jamieson
Dec	10 16	Christmas Party The Buck and Tap o'Noth	20:00 08:00	Allan Brown